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# Edmonton metro

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## THAT WINNIN' FEELIN'

Oilers ground Jets with 3-1 at Rexall Place



Winnipeg Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck, covers the net as Edmonton Oilers' Taylor Hall controls the puck during first period NHL on Monday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Alberta may hit the brakes: Ceci

## BUDGET

### Some, or all, of next year's programs may be delayed

Alberta's finance minister says low oil prices may force him to hit the brakes on millions of dollars in initiatives promised by the NDP government such as child-care benefits, school fee reductions, student hiring and environmental retrofits.

Joe Ceci said in a year-end

interview that some or all of a dozen programs set to begin in the 2016-17 fiscal year may be delayed.

"We've addressed a lot of (our commitments). We've done a lot of them," Ceci said. "The ones that haven't been started, they could potentially be delayed or reduced."

The specifics haven't been ironed out.

"I can't point you to any one (program) here in terms of commitments, but I can tell you I'm comfortable recommending (to cabinet) slower phase-in and lower phase-in for some of these

things," said Ceci.

Ceci and his staff are crunching numbers for the next budget to be presented in February or March.

The revenue scenario remains daunting because of a continued decline in oil prices, the well-spring of Alberta's economy. The price for a barrel of West Texas Intermediate has dropped to under \$40 US a barrel from a high 18 months ago of more than \$100 US.

The last budget, presented in October, has forecast a \$6.1-billion deficit.

In that budget, the NDP prom-

ised funding beginning in 2016-17 in 12 areas.

Among the government's promises was a \$75 million for more child-care spaces and to increase affordability.

Ceci might also defer \$30 million earmarked to improve home care for seniors, \$40 million for long-term care and \$20 million for a program to provide school lunches for children in need.

Education promises in the budget included \$45 million to reduce the cost of school fees and \$44 million to provide additional classroom supports.

## \$147M

The big-ticket item was **\$147 million for a child-care benefit** to go to low-income families on a per child basis up to a total of \$2,750 a year.

Premier Rachel Notley's personal pledge to restore a summer student hiring program could also be affected. The province was set to put up \$10 million a year to help businesses,

municipalities and community organizations hire students to give them their valuable work experience.

On the environment side, the province budgeted \$5 million to work with banks to provide interest-free loans to help families and small businesses make energy-efficient retrofits. Another \$5 million was to beef up environmental monitoring and environment.

The Foundation for the Arts was promised \$5 million and \$8 million was pledged to enhance bus service to rural communities. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## ‘He had a massive heart’

### STORE SHOOTINGS

#### Mac’s worker remembered as a caring friend



**Andrea Ross**  
Metro | Edmonton

Sara Chaloux received the last text message from her best friend just past midnight Friday morning, barely two hours before he was killed at the Mac’s convenience store where he worked.

“Hey, how are you doing?” Ricardo (Ricky) Cenabre wrote, as he had so many times before.

Chaloux didn’t have a chance to answer. Later that morning, her boyfriend told her two Mac’s convenience employees were killed overnight.

“When I heard that, I said, ‘No, no, no,’” Chaloux said. “I felt fearful. I waited and waited to hear something, somehow.”

McDonald’s employees who worked across the street from the Mac’s at 108 Street and 61 Avenue confirmed to her that Ricky, her best friend of four years, was gone.

“We talked 100 times a day,” Chaloux said. “He had a massive heart. It’s really, really hard to swallow. I always said the world needs to be filled with more people like him.”

Cenabre, 41, died early Friday morning after three armed robbers invaded the Mac’s store, where he was working alone.

Police found another Mac’s employee, 35-year-old Karanpal



The scene outside one of two Mac’s convenience stores Friday where two clerks were killed. Inset: An online fundraiser has been set up for the family of Ricardo (Ricky) Cenabre, who was killed at a Mac’s store on Friday. THE CANADIAN PRESS; INSET: SUPPLIED

“**I always said the world needs to be filled with more people like him.**”

Sara Chaloux

Singh Bhangu, dead minutes earlier at the Mill Woods location where he worked the night shift.

Two men and a 13-year-old boy are all facing first-degree murder charges in relation to the deaths of both men, as well as various weapons and danger-

ous driving charges.

Chaloux said she met Cenabre at a west-end Mac’s store where he worked four years ago and the two became best friends. He was there for the birth of her daughter, Arianna, two years ago.

Cenabre was originally from the Philippines and planned to visit in two weeks, Chaloux said, adding that he loved Guns N’ Roses and Bryan Adams, and was an amazing cook.

“He was just adventurous, there was nothing he didn’t want to do,” Chaloux said. “I can’t fathom the idea of not seeing him. I’m going to miss him.”

## Youth, 13, appears in court

A 13-year-old cried as he appeared briefly in youth court Monday to face first-degree murder charges in the shooting deaths of two convenience store clerks.

The chubby-faced boy, who cannot be identified, covered his face with his hands, then wiped his wet eyes with an inmate-issued T-shirt.

Police allege the boy was one of three masked robbers behind deadly holdups at two different Mac’s stores in Edmonton early Friday. Two clerks working alone in the stores were shot dead within minutes of each other.

Officers responding to a panic alarm found Karanpal Singh Bhangu, 35, shot in the stomach. He died of his injuries in hospital. A delivery man called 911 from the second store. He had found a trail of blood leading to a storage room, where 41-year-old Ricky Cenabre was lying dead.

Court records show the 13-year-old, who can’t be named, was charged in May with weapons offences for allegedly carrying nunchuks and pruning shears. In October, he was arrested on other counts that included personal robberies and assault with a weapon — bear spray.

A judge released the boy on an undertaking on Nov. 20 and imposed conditions that included he live with his grandmother.

Two men, co-accused in the Mac’s slayings — 24-year-old Laylin Delorme and 27-year-old Colton Steinhauer — also appeared in court Monday on murder charges. Their cases were put over to Jan. 11. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### + FUNDRAISING FOR VICTIMS

Fundraising campaigns have been started to help the Cenabre and Bhangu families.

A GoFundMe page for Cenabre created on Dec. 19 had raised almost \$20,000 as of Monday evening.

A member of the campaign’s team said on the page that they will be going back to Cenabre’s home in the Philippines to deliver the proceeds once they hit

their goal of \$50,000.

Another GoFundMe page created for the Bhangu family on Dec. 18 had raised almost \$53,000 of a \$100,000 goal as of Monday evening.

The page was created by Kat Thornton, who worked with Bhangu’s wife, Kiran.

The money will be used to help with funeral and living expenses.

ANDREA ROSS/METRO

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# Interchange could drive business

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Highway work opens route to global traffic



**Ryan Tumilty**  
Metro | Edmonton

Edmonton political leaders hope a new \$205 million interchange will not only ease commutes, but shrink the distance between Alberta and the rest of the world.

The 41 Avenue interchange, over Highway 2, opened to traffic on Nov. 19, but Mayor Don Iveson, Alberta Transportation Minister Brian Mason and Federal Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi spoke Monday about the effect the new connection could have for Edmonton.

"It makes possible a lot of future growth, a lot of future jobs and it will help manage congestion and traffic," Iveson said.

The interchange is next to Canadian Pacific's new railway yards and the hope is all the projects together can help connect the city with Asian markets

through the rail connection and the nearby airport.

"That lines up with what we can do to help activate the Air China Cargo flight and future cargo opportunities and logistics opportunities," Iveson said.

Air China announced the city as a hub earlier this year, with three flights per week coming through Edmonton International Airport.

The province also announced it would add one southbound lane on the highway between the new interchange and the Highway 19 interchange, which will also see improvements.

"The international port concept at the airport I think is going to drive a lot of economic growth," Mason said. "This interchange, plus the widening and the interchange work on Highway 19, all support that work."

Sohi, who began lobbying for the project as a councillor before winning federal office, said this is an important investment for the city's economic development prospects.

"When you look at the QE2 Highway it's not just a commuter highway, a lot of goods move on that highway, a lot of trucks move on that highway."



Alberta Transportation Minister Brian Mason, Federal infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi and Mayor Don Iveson with an image of the new interchange. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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## CHRISTMAS BUREAU

### Tough times in oil patch mean rough patch for giving: Charity

The Christmas Bureau says they could be in "peril" if they don't meet their fundraising goal. They're currently just over halfway to what they need to raise in December.

This has been the toughest fundraising season that Darlene Kowalchuk, campaign director, has seen in her six years with the organization, with the economy playing a big role.

"Usually at this point we're over the million-dollar mark and heading into the home stretch."

Kowalchuk says that the Christmas Bureau doesn't turn away people, so if they don't raise enough money to pay for what they've already distributed they'll have to look at cutting programs for next year.

Demand is also up. So far the Christmas Bureau has distributed meals for 65,000 people, and anticipates serving another 2,000. Last year's total was 63,000 people.

They're not the only charity feeling the sting of low oil prices.

In November, the Edmonton Food Bank served 19,000 people, an increase of 4,000 from last year. Executive director Marjorie Bencz says they've



Volunteers fill hampers for the Christmas Bureau.

COURTESY CHRISTMAS BUREAU

had a slight decrease in donations from Candy Cane Lane, thanks to a cold snap that kept visitors away.

"We're hoping over the next couple of days that people think of us."

Lana Nordlund, executive director of 630 CHED Santas Anonymous, says that while they had enough for their toy distribution campaign, the or-

ganization "was not immune" either. She predicts final numbers will show a decrease in donations.

On the bright side, she says they had so many volunteers some had to be turned away.

"We heard more and more from people who had been laid off and said they just needed to get out of the house and help out." METRO

# Reality show takes flight

## TELEVISION

## Crews filming everyday inner workings of city's airport



**Andrea Ross**  
Metro | Edmonton

The Edmonton International Airport's next hot destination? Television screens around the world.

A Toronto production crew is currently filming the everyday inner workings of the airport for an upcoming reality TV show.

Set to air sometime this spring, EIA spokeswoman Heather Hamilton said the show is similar to the National Geographic Channel's Ultimate Airport Dubai, but focused on the challenges faced by airports in northern climates.

"When you think of winter operations, you have to think of Edmonton, because we really do have one of the best win-



**A Toronto production crew** is currently filming scenes for a reality show set at the Edmonton International Airport. MACK MALE/FICKR

ter crews in the world," Hamilton said.

"It'll show some of the behind-the-scenes stuff passengers wouldn't normally see."

Crews started filming a week-and-a-half ago, Hamilton said, and are focusing on

how the airport clears snow, manages a full-time fire crew, responds to medical diversions, cleans muddy floors and cleans ice from planes and runways.

As the busiest northern airport in Canada, the production company was very interested in

the airport's track record when it comes to dealing with extreme weather, Hamilton said.

"Our runways have never been closed for weather," Hamilton said. "They work in some very ugly conditions. Even if it's 30 below, there's a bliz-

**“It'll show some of the behind-the-scenes stuff passengers wouldn't normally see.”**

Heather Hamilton

zard or a snowstorm, we're still moving planes."

The production crew is also looking for travellers with interesting stories to feature on the show, Hamilton said, and these travellers will need to sign consent forms.

Signs are in the airport notifying other passengers of the filming. Some travellers might simply appear in the background of the show as crews continue filming until early March, Hamilton said.

"We had some folks who were a little worried because they thought the production company was secretly filming," Hamilton said. "But it's a big TV crew that you can't miss."

## FOOD DRIVE

### Can Man Dan to wrap up campaign in Edmonton

Anti-poverty activist Dan Johnstone (Can Man Dan) is coming back to Edmonton for the final nights of his 2015 Moving Out Hunger campaign.

Johnstone is camping with a tractor-trailer to hold donations outside the Southbrook Sobeys for the last three days of his campaign, wrapping up Thursday at 6 p.m.

He hopes to raise 10,000 pounds of food and \$15,000 for Edmonton's Food Bank.

This is his fifth year camping outside grocery stores to raise money for the food bank, and the first year he's taken the tour across Alberta.

He got his start in 2011 going door-to-door to collect donations.

METRO

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CHRC

## Housing authority has properties on AHS list

Among the list of more than 120 homes with Alberta Health Services orders against them were two from the city's housing authority.

Two properties — 4531-32A Ave. and 1220-80 St. — both had orders to have the properties vacated from 2013, because of unhealthy conditions.

Capital Region Housing Corporation (CRHC) CEO Greg Dewling said the homes have long since been repaired, but the

agency didn't contact AHS to have them re-inspected.

"They're going to get that done right away, so it should be off the list shortly, but they were all fixed up once we got the orders," he said.

The home at 1220-80 St. had extensive roof problems with water dripping through the ceiling and into buckets throughout the premise when inspectors came knocking in 2013.

The building also had win-

dow problems, electrical issues and, not surprisingly, extensive water damage.

The other property at 4531-32A Ave. appeared to be suffering at the hands of its tenant, with pet urine and feces left throughout the premises.

Dewling said some of the corporation's tenants don't treat their homes well and CHRC often welcome the closure orders as an opportunity to get the place cleaned up.

"In some cases, we'll go for our annual inspection and we leverage the AHS inspection to move a tenant along that is treating the property inappropriately," he said.

He said they inspect their properties once a year for problems, but tenants have called AHS when they believe issues are not being addressed. "For one reason or another they decide not to call us and they call AHS," he said. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



Health Minister Sarah Hoffman says if anyone is concerned that they're living somewhere unsafe, they should call the city inspection line. METRO FILE PHOTO

## No need for more staff: Hoffman

INVESTIGATION

### Health Minister denies need to boost funds for housing issues

**Ryan Tumilty**  
Metro | Edmonton

Alberta's Health Minister Sarah Hoffman said she doesn't intend to add more inspectors to deal with housing issues a Metro investigation raised.

Metro found many of the 126 Edmonton properties on an AHS list of units deemed "unfit for human habitation" or "tenant occupancy" had been re-occupied, despite active orders still in place.

AHS said it follows up on some inspections, but the city's eight housing inspectors focus on larger units. Hoffman said the province is not in a position to boost funding.

"Resources are tight and we need to bend the cost curve, and I think we need to be using the staff that we have as efficiently as possible," said Hoffman.

She said if people are worried about their housing or

their neighbours housing they should still reach out.

"If anyone has a concern that they're living somewhere that is unsafe they certainly can call the inspection line," she said.

Current legislation only allows AHS to close a property as a public health concern, but they can't order improvements.

When a property is deemed unsightly, the City of Edmonton can assess fines and can ultimately order a cleanup and bill the property owner's taxes.

Hoffman said she's not sure new legislation is the answer to the problem.

"At this point I am not confident it's a legislative barrier so I wouldn't want to jump to that conclusion," she said.

Mayor Don Iveson said he's confident the lost revenue will motivate most property owners.

"There is a pretty powerful incentive to clean it up, because if you are a landlord you can't charge rent."

He said AHS and the city could work more closely together to address some of these concerns.

"There is an opportunity for integration with the city when it comes to enforcement."



**Resources are tight and we need to bend the cost curve, and I think we need to be using the staff that we have as efficiently as possible.** Health Minister Sarah Hoffman



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## FESTIVAL

**Volunteers needed for fat-tire bike chariots**

The Media Architecture Design Edmonton group is calling for something rather unique on the cusp of your winter vacation: chariots and people with fat-bikes to pull them.

The group is asking for teams to design and build chariots that will be raced in February's Flying Canoe Festival.

The chariots will be pulled by two cyclists riding fat-tire bikes and piloted by one person in the chariot.

Organization co-chair Sam Singh said the idea is to challenge people in the city to rethink winter transportation "in a fun and accessible way that capitalizes on this city's growing love for winter cycling."

MADE is currently on the hunt for people with fat-tire bikes who would like to pull chariot pilots this February. They have also set aside a test day on Jan. 10 for anyone wishing to try out their chariot design. METRO

# Freezeway traffic inbound

## PARKS AND RECREATION

## Frozen trail stretches 400 metres through city



**Alex Boyd**  
Metro | Edmonton

The Edmonton Freezeway hasn't launched yet, but Matt Gibbs already has to wait for a group of skaters to go by before he can cross the ice.

"It's amazing to see how this idea's been embraced by the city," Gibbs, designer of the Freezeway, says. "For me it's a dream come true."

Three years ago Gibbs' vision of an ice path through the city made international headlines. Now, Edmonton's finally gets to see part of it in action.

The pilot project is a 400-metre trail through the trees, just off the Victoria Park skating oval. At night it'll be lit up by art installations hung from the trees, created by local artist Dylan Toymaker.

It's a piece of the larger



Freezeway designer Matt Gibbs at the site of the new pilot project. ALEX BOYD/METRO

concept Gibbs created for his masters thesis in landscape architecture at the University of British Columbia. The design won the COLDSCAPES international design competition in 2013, which focuses on encouraging better designs in cold climates.

"I think our neglect to ac-

knowledge that we live in a winter city has forced us to produce an urban form that looks no different than if it was in California," he says.

"We can create more fun experiences that don't force you to hide behind your four heated walls all winter."

Gibbs met with the city after

they expressed interest in the project and he says plans for the pilot came together in about three months. According to Angie Blades, project co-ordinator with community services, city staff have been working on the trail since it first got cold enough in early December.

66

## What would it take to make Edmontonians fall in love with winter?

Matt Gibbs

If all goes well, there are already plans to double the length of the route next year, and Gibbs notes there's room for over three kilometres of skating track in the area.

But for now, he's happy to watch skaters make their way around the track. "I just really cared so much about this project," he says.

"It's been a project about passion. For me, it was about begging the question, what would it take to make Edmontonians fall in love with winter?"

## + LACING UP

The project's official launch is Tuesday at 4 p.m. The public is invited for the inaugural first lap and free hot chocolate.

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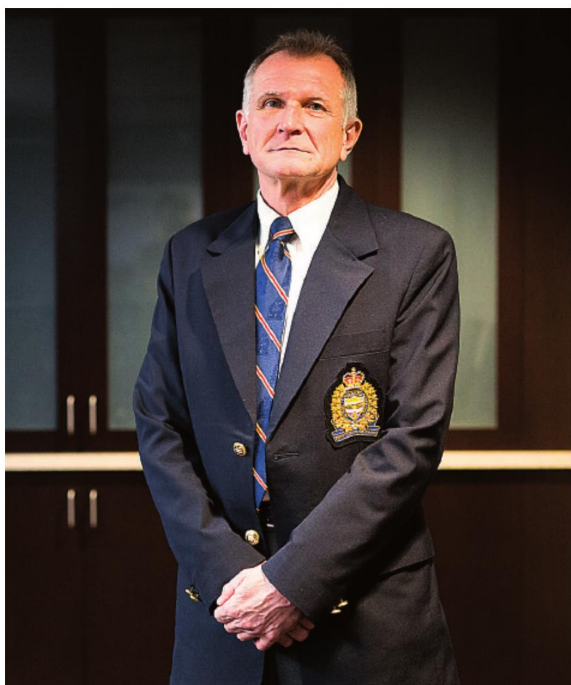
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EPS Chief Rod Knecht called 2015 a "challenging" year for the force. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

# Up next for Rod Knecht

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Police chief on challenges in 2015 and action plans for 2016

During a year-end interview with Edmonton Police Service (EPS) Chief Rod Knecht, Metro asked about some of the year's biggest crime headlines: fentanyl, radicalization, call volume and domestic violence.

**Calls for service are up by about 12,000 so far this year compared to last. How will EPS handle a high volume of calls in the upcoming year?**

The majority of our calls are those public-nuisance calls. On the more serious side, it's robberies and domestic violence. It's complex and it's a multiple resource response.

We have to find a different way of doing business here because we certainly didn't get the resources we would have liked to get in the budget. We don't want the level of service to drop any more than it already has. It's going to be a challenge for us.

What we've got to do is have that dialogue with the community. Just find out what Edmontonians think the Edmonton Police Service should focus on.

**How can police better address domestic violence?**

People have to come forward if they see abuse or are aware of abuse, because it does escalate. As a police service, that's what we can do to continue the message.

We can't go into a house without a reason. We need people to be the eyes and ears of the police service.

**Is EPS concerned about religious radicalization in Edmonton?**

We have seen a significant increase in files over the year. We see the biggest payoff in community outreach and community policing. I think we need to focus on youth in particular. Responding to a terrorist act is after the fact; it's too late. It's always best to build a relationship before something bad happens.

**What are police doing to address the fentanyl crisis in Edmonton?**

It's going to be a national problem here very quickly if it isn't already. It is difficult to get a handle on it because usually when we find out about it, it's too late. It's like any other drug; it operates in a subculture in our community and it's tough to prevent a death other than getting the public information out that it's dangerous.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*



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## LAS VEGAS

## 'We were ... minutes short of being victims'



**Jeremy Simes**  
For Metro | Calgary

If the Vazquez-Mackay family didn't stop to sit down, they would have been right in the middle of Sunday night's horrific pedestrian plowing on the Las Vegas strip.

Mark, a painter who lives in Calgary, had a stomach ache after he and his family ate at a nearby restaurant, so he de-

cided to sit down for a bit.

He said the family was a block away when the rampage occurred in front of the Paris Hotel & Casino and Planet Hollywood.

"A block in front of us, a car drove off the street and ran over dozens of pedestrians," he said. "We didn't see it unfold, but we estimated we were two to three minutes short of being victims."

"We would have been right there. It could have been us."

Local police in Las Vegas said Lakeisha Holloway, 24, appeared to be intentionally driving her car into dozens of pedestrians Sunday evening, killing one and injuring 35. Police have ruled out terrorism.

Mark said the Vegas Strip is much like the Stampede grounds in July. "Just imagine a car going down the midway during Stampede," he said. "It's basically shoulder to shoulder when you walk around here."

As the family approached the

scene, Mark said he couldn't believe how many police officers and paramedics were there.

"They closed the whole street down," he said. "A lot of people were involved — we saw a lot of stretchers out."

"It was very frightening." Five Canadians were injured during the rampage and three of them were in critical condition, local police said. Holloway's three-year-old daughter — who was also in the car — was uninjured.



An ambulance waits outside the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

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# Emergency targets get slammed

## HEALTH SERVICES

## Critic says rural areas shouldn't have to wait longer



**Ryan Tumilty**  
Metro | Edmonton

Alberta's new ambulance response targets appear to draw stark differences between rural and urban communities, but Alberta Health Services (AHS) insists the divide won't be that severe.

As Metro first reported, AHS has new standards for ambulance response times with a target of 12 minutes in urban areas, 15 minutes in small communities, 40 minutes in rural communities and 75 minutes in remote areas.

In a map the Wildrose shared in a press release, rural areas begin right at the edge of city boundaries. The party's health critic MLA Drew Barnes said people just outside the cities are still close to major hospitals.

"People who are in bedroom communities around Edmonton and around Calgary are going

to be subject to the 40-minute response time," he said.

Barnes said there shouldn't be different standards for rural areas.

"They need to ensure that Albertans have the same level of service regardless of where they live," he said.

According to AHS documents, one of the most significant problems with current dispatch is ambulance crews getting stuck waiting in emergency rooms. Barnes said the government should make sure that doesn't happen.

"After an hour delay, rural ambulance crews should be sent back to their communities," he said. "We need local autonomy. We need local decision makers."

AHS's Chief Paramedic Darren Sandbeck said the map was meant to classify areas, and rural communities on the edge of cities will still have good service.

He said this is just the beginning of the work on the new standards and there are more conversations to come with communities.

"We really need to consider this as a starting point. There is more work that comes behind this."

**They need to ensure that Albertans have the same level of service regardless of where they live. MLA Drew Barnes**



# ‘Now let’s make it a great place to pee’

## COCHRANE

## Businesses campaigning for downtown restrooms



**Aaron Chatha**  
Metro | Calgary

“Thank you to our council for their dedication and passion — they make Cochrane a great place to be! Now let’s make it a great place to pee,” reads a poster adorning local businesses in Cochrane’s historic downtown.

Most customers are used to having one or two options to go number one or two in a high traffic area — but local businesses say there are currently no public washrooms in the downtown Cochrane area, and it’s costing them customers.

“I was just really peeved after another customer, a really good customer, yelled at us because we don’t have a public bathroom for her to

use,” said Karrie Peace, owner of The Heavenly Outhouse, who spearheaded the poster campaign. “She said, I know you have a bathroom, I’m going to Walmart and I won’t be back.”

Fiona Sharman, owner of Global Pet Foods, echoed the same kind of stories, saying many old bathrooms like hers weren’t designed to take on a large capacity of people, and are often used as extra stockrooms because the storefronts are so small.

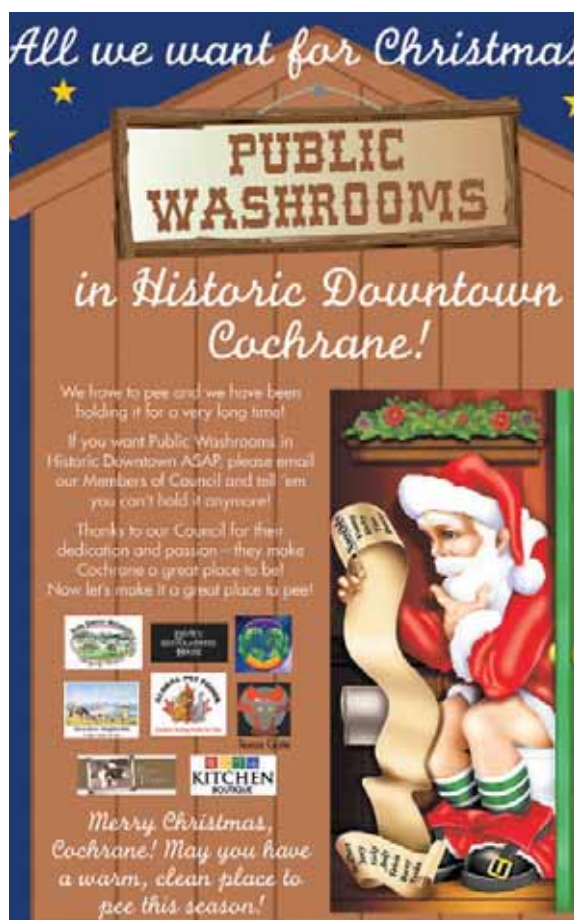
“Customers get upset when you won’t let them use your washroom, but I just had a \$700 plumbing bill on a Sunday because my toilet backed up,” she said.

Peace hoped the cheeky tone of the poster would create awareness, without making it look like they were attacking anyone.

Cochrane councillor Tara McFadden said this has been an issue since she came into office eight years ago. She said it’s being discussed at council, and the next step is to work with local businesses, and with the budget, to see what the best possible fit is.

“Customers get upset when you won’t let them use your washroom, but I just had a \$700 plumbing bill on Sunday.”

Fiona Sharman



These posters are aimed to bring awareness to a huge issue: The lack of public bathrooms in Cochrane’s historic downtown core. COURTESY KARRIE PEACE

## TRANSPORTATION

## Uber launches new luxury car service



**Tim Querengesser**  
Metro | Edmonton

Uber is launching a luxury car service in Edmonton that it already offers in many other markets thanks to the “fantastic growth” officials say the company has seen here in its first year of operations.

“What we kept hearing is (customers) wanted the same level of convenience, but a premium touch,” Uber Alberta General Manager Ramit Kar said.

That premium touch is called UberSelect, and it works similarly to the UberX and UberXL services already offered in Edmonton, but with additional fees.

Customers can now choose a ride in a higher-end car — think Mercedes, BMW, Audi, Lexus — for important meetings, dates or other events, Kar said, while paying a nominally higher fee.

Meanwhile, Edmonton drivers who own a pre-set list of pre-

mium rides can now apply to be an UberSelect driver.

Prices for UberSelect increase on many measures: The base fare grows by \$2.25, to \$5, and the per-kilometre fare jumps to \$1.85, from \$0.85.

“We saw this as a great opportunity for Edmonton and we’re looking to (offer) more options to the city,” Kar said, adding that several other Uber services have been trialled in other markets,



**We saw this as a great opportunity for Edmonton.**

Ramit Kar

including food delivery, pooling Uber vehicles and quick deliveries. But does Edmonton really need luxury ride-sharing?

“We’ve seen this work in market after market after market,” he said.

Metro also asked about a report that an estimated 70 Uber drivers in the city face court trials after a bylaw sting by the city.

“I can’t say too much about it because the matter is before the courts,” Kar said. “But, in all of these instances, we’re going to support our partners in these situations.”



## IN BRIEF

### Sexual assault decision sent to review panel

The Canadian Judicial Council has announced the next step in its review of a judge who asked a sexual assault complainant why she couldn’t keep her knees together. The council says Justice Robin Camp’s deci-

sion of a case in 2014 will be referred to a review panel.

Camp, who was an Alberta provincial court judge at the time, acquitted a man of the sexual assault of a 19-year-old woman after deciding that the accused man’s version of the events was more credible. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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# Spanking law to be revoked

## SECTION 43

### End in sight for 'reasonable' force against children

The Liberal government plans to repeal a section of the Criminal Code that protects parents — and teachers — who use spanking and other “reasonable” force against children.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has promised to implement all 94 recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that investigated the dark history and ongoing legacy of the Indian residential school system. One of them was to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

“The commission believes that corporal punishment is a relic of a discredited past and



**Corporal punishment ... has no place in Canadian schools or homes.**

A statement released by TRC

has no place in Canadian schools or homes,” the TRC wrote in its final report released last week.

A spokesman for Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould confirmed Monday the federal government includes that recommendation in its overall pledge, but said it is too early to get into other details.

“The government is committed to implementing all of the 94 calls to action. However, at this point, we cannot speculate on potential legislative or policy approaches to address this issue,” spokesman Christian Girouard wrote in an email Monday.

Cathy McLeod, the Conservative critic for indigenous affairs, said in an interview last week that the TRC recommendation on corporal punishment is one that should not be implemented without widespread consultations.

“That is something that all Canadians need to have input into,” McLeod said last week when asked whether any of the 94 recommendations were a cause for concern.

The Supreme Court of Canada upheld the ‘spanking law’ in 2004, ruling that physical force could be used by parents and schoolteachers on children between the ages of 2 and 12 years old.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



**IRAQI DEFENCE MINISTER KEEPS FOCUS ON TRAINING** Canadian Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan writes in the visitors book before meeting with Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani on Monday. Sajjan toured the front lines in the war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, meeting with Kurdish military commanders and Canadian special forces who repelled last week's major offensive west of Irbil. SAFIN HAMED/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## EDUCATION

### Online threats growing

Canadian universities are being urged to put resources into monitoring online threats against student and faculty safety.

William Taylor, President of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, says Canadian campuses will require more than just campus security and police to keep up with emerging risks, particularly as social media grows more pervasive.

“There’s always new technologies and new things coming online and frankly, law enforcement and institutions are always a little bit behind that in learning how to deal with it,” he said.

And while copycat hoaxes largely account for the surge in online threats, it remains critical to quickly assess the credibility of each message, he said. Officials at several Canadian universities all say they take every threat seriously and continuously review their security protocols.

Officials at the University of British Columbia, the University of Calgary, McGill University, and the University of Toronto all say they take every threat seriously and continuously review their security protocols.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## ARCTIC

### New chance to solve dispute over Hans Island: Academics

It’s hard to imagine a less likely trigger point between two more unlikely combatants than rocky, chilly, empty Hans Island up near the top of the globe.

But as University of British Columbia political science professor Michael Byers ruefully observes, “wars have been fought in the past over seemingly small things.”

He thinks Canada and Denmark will want to avoid such a rotten state of affairs.

What’s more, he told Torstar News Service, current political events provide a window — and this season of peace offers a powerful incentive — to melt at least some of the diplomatic iciness in the Arctic.

Hans Island is a 1.2-sq.-km rock in the Kennedy Channel of the Nares Strait between Canada’s Ellesmere Island and Denmark’s Greenland.

In practical terms, it’s worthless (even if it would likely incite bidding wars in the real-estate markets of Vancouver

or Toronto).

Just before Christmas in 1973, Canada and Denmark agreed to a treaty that established the boundary between Canada and Greenland.

The boundary-makers drew a series of geodesic lines up the middle of the waterway, and



**Wise statesmen and diplomats seek to resolve small problems while they’re small.**

Michael Byers

all went swimmingly until they bumped into Hans Island. Since their mandate was to draw maritime, not land divisions, they hopped over it.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Canada claimed Hans as Canadian. Denmark assumed it to be Dan-

ish. And the two sides have not seen eye to eye on Hans since.

Enter Michael Byers and his Danish colleague, Michael Boss, a professor from Aarhus University.

At a conference at the Danish school in November, the two put forward the Aarhus Declaration — which proposes that the dispute over Hans Island be resolved by creating a “condominium of shared authority.”

Byers said he has thought about such a plan for years, but “it didn’t seem like something the Harper government would likely seize upon.”

Recent changes of government in Canada and Denmark offer an opportunity, he said.

The new governments of Canada and Denmark “should both want to send positive signals about Arctic co-operation, about dispute settlement, particularly at a time when there’s some significant tension with Russia,” Byers said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



**Hans Island** has been quietly creating tension between Canada and Denmark since 1973.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE





April 2013, Bangladeshi civilian volunteers assist in rescue operations after an eight-storey building collapsed in Savar, on the outskirts of Dhaka. MUNIR UZ ZAMAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

# Collapse was murder: Court

BANGLADESH

## Charges laid against 41 in 2013 disaster

A court in Bangladesh's capital accepted murder charges Monday against 41 people including the owner of the Rana Plaza building that collapsed in 2013, killing more than 1,100 people in the country's worst industrial disaster.

Most of the victims were garment factory workers who made clothing for about 29 global brands, including Joe Fresh from Loblaw.

Investigators initially had said the accused would be charged with culpable homicide, but they shifted to the more severe charges after the investigation found that building owner Sohel Rana, his staff and the management of the five garment factories had forced workers to enter the building just before it collapsed even though the workers feared doing so because major cracks had developed in the structure a day earlier.

The maximum penalty for someone convicted of murder is a death sentence, while the maximum punishment for culpable homicide is seven years in jail.

The court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Al-Amin decided to go ahead with the

trial after accepting the murder charges filed by police in June.

The police report called the deaths a "mass killing." About 2,500 people were injured in the disaster.

Rana and the owners of the five garment factories are among the 41 defendants accused of murder.

While Rana is in jail and 16 others are on bail, the magistrate issued arrest warrants against 24 others, said police prosecution wing officer Mohammad Asaduzzaman.

He said the police would take steps to arrest them. The court told police stations to submit updates on which arrests have been made when the court next hears the case on Jan. 27.

In a separate case, the accused also facing charges of violating safety rules in building Rana Plaza.

The original five-storey building was meant for office space and retail stores, but more floors were added illegally and transformed into factories.

The extremely low wages in Bangladesh led global brands and retailers to choose its garment industry over factories in China and other developing countries.

1,100 VICTIMS

Most were garment factory workers who made clothing for 29 global brands, including Joe Fresh from Loblaw.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KENYA

# Muslims hide non-Muslims from militants

Muslims in a bus in northern Kenya dressed non-Muslim passengers in Islamic garb to prevent extremists from identifying them for slaughter, witnesses said.

Two people died in the attacks in northern Mandera County when gunmen believed to be Somalia's al-Shabab rebels shot at a bus and truck headed for the town of Mandera, North Eastern Regional Co-ordinator Mohamud Saleh said.

Abdirahman Hussein, a 28-year-old teacher, said some of the Muslim passengers gave non-Muslims head scarves to conceal their identities.

An extremist entered the bus and ordered everyone to get out and form two separate groups of non-Muslims and Muslims, said Hussein. One person, a non-Muslim, decided to run and was shot in the back and died, he said.

A police official said a brave

3

Number of attacks on security forces carried out by al-Shabab militants last week. Last November, al-Shabab killed 28 non-Muslims on a bus, then the next month killed 36 non-Muslim quarry workers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Muslim man fooled the attackers by saying a truck full of police officers that was escorting bus was not far behind.

The officer said the lie about the escort prompted the extremists to order everyone back on the bus and told them to drive off. The extremists ambushed a truck on the same road and asked the driver whether he had seen a truck full of police officers, the officer said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# China's year of disasters

## SAFETY REGULATIONS

### Four incidents spark outrage, demand for more oversight

China's year of man-made disasters began on New Year's Eve when 36 revelers were killed in a stampede in Shanghai. Nearly twelve months later, a mountain of excavated soil and construction waste collapsed into buildings at an industrial park in Shenzhen. Four of the disasters this year that have sparked outrage and prompted the government to pledge to improve industrial oversight and safety regulations:

#### 1 Shanghai Stampede:

About 30 minutes before midnight on Dec. 31, 2014, people were jostling to climb a viewing platform next to the Pu river on the scenic Bund promenade when the stampede started. The crush killed 36 people and injured 49, blemishing the image of China's most prosperous and modern metropolis.



Chinese Paramilitary police in Shanghai. GETTY IMAGES

Investigators found local police were unprepared to handle the size of the crowd, estimated at 300,000 people. The Communist Party boss, district police chief and a third local official in the Huangpu riverfront district were fired and disciplined for corruption.

#### 2 Yangtze Sinking:

The Eastern Star cruise ship capsized in severe winds on the Yangtze River, causing China's worst shipwreck in more than 60 years. More than 440 people died in the June 1 disaster.



Rescuers search for survivors in the Yangtze River. GETTY IMAGES

Captain Zhang Shunwen was arrested after he was rescued from the river, with investigators looking into why he chose to sail into the storm instead of dropping anchor. A government agency in years prior had cited the ship for safety violations, but no one tied to the capsizing has been convicted of wrongdoing.

#### 3 Tianjin Explosions:

A series of explosions at a chemical warehouse on Aug. 12 levelled a swath of the port city of Tianjin, killing 173 and injuring nearly 800. Investigators



Fire and smoke rises after explosions in Tianjin. GETTY IMAGES

found that a company, Ruihai Logistics, illegally had stored the combustible chemicals within 1 kilometre of a residential area.

The Communist Party's anti-graft watchdog placed the administrator of China's work safety regulator, Yang Dongliang, who had previously served as Tianjin vice mayor, under investigation while a dozen people including executives at the warehousing company were arrested.

#### 4 Shenzhen Landslide:

A mountain of excavated soil and construction waste toppled



The aftermath of a landslide in Shenzhen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

after being soaked by heavy rains, hitting buildings in an industrial park in Shenzhen on Dec. 20. At least 85 people are missing, and an official microblog said survival possibilities in the collapsed buildings were small.

Some residents have blamed government negligence for allowing the giant debris pile to build up, while questions have been raised about the weaknesses of the factories and dormitories that crumbled under the landslide.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## HEALTH SCIENCE

### Blood policies amended

The three-decade-old U.S. ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men was formally lifted Monday, but major restrictions will continue to limit who can donate.

The Food and Drug Administration said it is replacing the lifetime ban with a new policy barring donations from men who have had sex with a man in the previous year. While the one-year-ban has been criticized by activists it matches policies in other countries, including Australia, Japan and the U.K.

Gay rights activists said the new policy is a "step in the right direction," but falls short.

"It continues to stigmatize gay and bisexual men," said David Stacy, of the Human Rights Campaign. "It simply cannot be justified in light of current scientific research and updated blood screening technology."

Monday's policy shift was first proposed in late 2014 and follows years of lobbying by medical groups and gay rights groups, who said the previous ban was outdated. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Realtors try virtual reality to woo clients

## REAL ESTATE

### Canadian firm turns floor plans into 3D mockups

Overseas investors looking to park their money in Canadian real estate could soon be donning headsets and touring upcoming condo developments in virtual reality, according to the founder of a Toronto-based technology firm.

Invent Dev turns floor plans of new developments into 3D, immersive mockups that can be experienced in virtual reality, such as through the Oculus Rift system, or via the Samsung Gear VR headset.

David Payne, the company's founder and CEO, says he's been getting tremendous interest from the Chinese community. "They are very excited about the potential," he said, noting that in the past week alone he has received three media inquiries from Chinese news outlets.

The technology could help Canadian developers tap into global markets by allowing prospective buyers to tour a space without ever having to board a plane, he said. "They can now, from the comfort of their own home, view any floor plan that they want, with the



**Invent Dev founder David Payne** says virtual reality technology could help Canadian developers tap into global markets. CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV/THE CANADIAN PRESS

finishes they want, and feel like they're actually inside that home," says Payne.

The technology can benefit developers in other ways as well, says Payne. Rather than building model suites, Lifestyle Custom Homes employed Invent Dev's technology to create virtual reality mockups of its upcoming development in Toronto's Leslieville neighbourhood — a significant cost saving, he says.

While full-blown virtual reality — the kind that's experienced through a headset — is relatively new in the Canadian real estate industry, a number of agents have been using other technologies to create immersive experiences of homes. Cameras such as the Matterport Pro 3D can scan an existing home and create a three-dimensional rendering of it that can be viewed through a

simple web browser. A number of Toronto-based brokers with Sotheby's International Realty Canada, which works with a large proportion of overseas buyers, started using the technology earlier this year.

Ara Mamourian says his brokerage, SpringRealty.ca, has been using online virtual tours for all of its listings since 2013. One of the things that prompted Mamourian to start offering the service was a high number of calls from overseas buyers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

#### PROPERTIES

Foreign investors are willing to buy condos without visiting them in person first.

## TECHNOLOGY

# B.C. startups threatening 'dinosaurs'

One technology startup is using artificial intelligence to save people who book online flights up to 80 per cent. Another helps farmers boost their crop yields with a mobile app that manages operations from seed to sale. A third aims to replace bank accounts with only a card and an app.

They're all part of a boom in digital-technology startups in Vancouver that are challenging old methods of doing business, and they're out to "disrupt" everything from travel to agriculture to financial services.

"You adapt or you die," said Ray Walia, CEO of Launch Academy, a non-profit firm that trains and mentors such startups. The organization has helped entrepreneurs start more than 350 companies, raising about \$57 million in funding and creating over 635 jobs across 15 industries.



**Ray Walia, CEO of Launch Academy.** THE CANADIAN PRESS

They include TripDelta, Farm At Hand and Koho.

Walia said employers outside the technology world must change the mindset that "bleeding-edge" advancements don't matter to their industries.

"It's those technology companies that are going to help

those incumbents — those dinosaurs — stay alive."

The youth-propelled trend is also flourishing in the technology hubs of Toronto and Montreal.

About 84,000 British Columbians were employed by over 9,000 tech companies in 2014,

according to the provincial Technology Ministry — more than in mining, forestry, and oil and gas combined.

Vancouver is home to more than a dozen "incubator" facilities and "accelerator boot camps," which provide crash courses for early-stage companies on taking technology ideas to market.

Millennials are strongly represented, with many aspiring to hatch the next company valued at \$1 billion — broadly dubbed a "unicorn" in tech circles, or "narwhal" in Canada.

Hootsuite, Slack and Avigilon have already joined the Narwhal Club, while another 12 Vancouver companies are considered emerging. Ten others have been acquired by more established companies, according to Launch Academy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## FISHING

### Thailand denies ignoring shrimp industry slavery

Thailand's government said Monday it is not ignoring the slavery and forced labour in its lucrative shrimp industry that was highlighted in an Associated Press investigation published last week. At the news conference Monday, government officials did not deny the existence of forced labour but they disputed parts of the story, especially the AP's assertion that police took bribes and turned a blind eye to the practices.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## EMMA TEITEL: ON A BEAUTY QUEEN'S BLESSING IN DISGUISE

# Can you honestly say you remember last year's Miss Universe winner — or runner-up? I know I can't, because last year's pageant was a blunder-free affair.

If aliens crash-land on earth tomorrow and demand to know what humans mean when they write #Fail, world leaders should provide them with a tape of Sunday night's Miss Universe pageant.

The now-viral event was more awkward than a thousand puberties because its host, comedian Steve Harvey, accidentally crowned the wrong beauty queen. Harvey misread his most important cue card and declared Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo, a.k.a. Miss Colombia, winner of the competition, when in fact she was first runner-up. When Gutierrez proceeded to bask in her newfound glory — the sparkly tiara already resting on her head — Harvey interjected to announce his mistake. The rightful recipient of the Miss Universe title was in fact Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach, a.k.a. Miss Philippines, who, thoroughly confused, walked to centre stage where she was forced to claim her competitor's crown.

Nobody was a winner on Sunday, not Miss Colombia, who likely lived her worst nightmare, not Wurtzbach who was deprived of her shining moment, and certainly not Harvey, whose initial tweet apologizing for his error was itself rife with errors; he spelled both the Philippines and Colombia incorrectly. (Harvey, the author of a popular dating advice book, *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man*, should consider writing a new tome: *Read Everything Twice*.) This year's Miss Universe pageant appears to be a lose-lose situation; the sort of colossal public slip-up in which you feel deeply sorry for everyone involved.

But appearances can be deceiving — especially where beauty pageants are concerned. Take a step back from the cruel spectacle of the event, and Harvey's mistake,



**Temporary tears** The accidental crowning of Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo, above, may have been quickly followed by the sting of disappointment, but both the victorious Miss Universe and the hastily re-christened runner-up should be grateful for the publicity, Emma Teitel writes. GETTY IMAGES

unfortunate and awkward as it was, may actually be a blessing for the women affected. For starters, we know their names. Can you honestly say that you remember last year's Miss Universe winner — or runner-up? I know I can't because last year's pageant was a blunder-free affair. If the goal of the pageant contestant is to be crowned before an adoring audience and strut across a stage blowing kisses uninterrupted, then Gutierrez Arevalo and Wurtzbach have every reason to curl up in a ball and cry. But if their goal is lasting exposure and relevance on the world stage, they should rejoice.

Thanks to Harvey's epic mess-up they will be remembered! This is especially true

of Gutierrez Arevalo. Sure she was humiliated and dethroned on live television in front of millions of people, but had there been no mix-up and ensuing chaos she would be a complete unknown today — unable to command international media attention and (what will likely come in the following weeks and months) high profile party appearances, and speaking engagements. You can see it now, in lights: "The Girl Who Was Almost Queen."

This runner-up-as-star principle isn't exactly unprecedented. In 2010 Detroit Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga came extremely close to pitching a perfect game when umpire Jim Joyce — the Steve Harvey in this scenario — made

an incorrect call, ruling one of Galarraga's opponents safe on base when he was, in fact, out. Thanks to Joyce (who, like Harvey, apologized profusely for his bad call), Galarraga didn't get his perfect game. But he did get boatloads of respect and sympathy from media and baseball fans. In fact, the incident, known today as "the Imperfect Game" or the "Galarraga game," is remembered as an example of pitching genius and a spectacle of good sportsmanship (Galarraga was unusually gracious in the face of a terrible call).

It's hard to believe that Galarraga's game would stand out so distinctly today had he gotten his wish and pitched a perfect game. In fact, you could argue that more people know who he is precisely because he was the victim of a bad call. The same can be said about Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo who, thanks to Harvey's colossal mistake and the graciousness with which she gave up her crown, will not sink into obscurity. It's possible she'll be remembered longer than her competitor.

"No one remembers who came in second," said the golfer Walter Hagen. The quote is a favourite among "winners" — among them, surprise, surprise, Donald Trump. But perhaps it's time to amend the expression — or more specifically, to complete it. No one remembers who came in second, unless, of course, they got royally screwed out of first.

**Emma Teitel** is a national columnist for the Toronto Star. She has been a front-of-the-book columnist for Maclean's magazine for the past four years, focusing on a wide range of subjects including women's issues and popular culture. She won the National Magazine Awards gold award for columns in 2013.



## metroview

# 'Real change' under Trudeau doesn't even begin to cover it



**Richard Gwyn**

For roughly the next fortnight, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will have nothing more strenuous to do than enjoy himself with his family and utter occasional seasonal pleasantries.

He's more than earned this time off. For six weeks now, Trudeau has been going like a bat out of hell, or, more directly, like a politician convinced he should, and can, transform the country, and even to some extent the world itself.

His pace is unprecedented. The one parallel in our history is the commitment Lester Pearson made to start his tenure with "60 Days of Decision," or doing everything better than had his predecessor, John Diefenbaker.

His program came to an abrupt end when his finance minister, Walter Gordon, brought down a bungled budget he then had to withdraw. Thereafter Pearson moved cautiously, although he went on to introduce universal health care, the Canada Pension Plan, and our flag.

Trudeau has moved far faster. His single most important project would transform the relationship between native people and other Canadians by implementing the 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and granting "nation-to-nation" status, near autonomy, to indigenous organizations, political and cultural.

Others are as ambitious. Canada's first-ever serious

commitment to climate change. An increase in taxes to generate more jobs for the middle class, but at the cost of increasing the deficit. A new electoral system.

And on and on. A new relationship between the provinces and the federal government. Withdrawing Canadian troops from the Middle East except as trainers well away from the front lines. Bringing 25,000 refugees from Syria.

Trudeau's phrase "real change" is inadequate. Only in the years after the Second World War, when Canadians first embraced the welfare state, has the country been challenged by so radical a political and cultural program.

Signs of stress have begun to appear. At the climate conference in Paris, Trudeau declared that on this issue Canada would exercise "a new leadership role." He was overdoing it by a wide margin. We're latecomers to the cause. We account for only 1.6 per cent of global emissions.

The sharpest stress comes from the economy. Finance Minister Bill Morneau has signalled the promise to hold the increased debt to \$10 billion over two years is out of date.

The sense that "Canada is back" hasn't changed. Trudeau should use the break to keep doing what he's doing, a good deal more slowly. He has a huge majority on his side. But if their jobs vanish or their salaries shrink, the loyalty of many will turn to themselves and their families.

**Richard Gwyn** is a Toronto Star columnist.

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## CAROLS

### Study looks at lyrical tributes to weather in popular song

Holiday songs mention the heat nearly as often as they do the snow, according to a recent study by British meteorologists who combed through pop music lyrics looking for references to the weather.

"Perhaps surprisingly, in Christmas songs in our primary list the word 'cold' is used less than one might expect, but instead is implied through idealistic Christmas images of snow," the authors say.

Take Let It Snow, for example: "Oh the weather outside is frightful/But the fire is so delightful."

Many holiday songs feature some version of this contrast because they are written for an audience in the northern hemisphere, the researchers say.

The only exception they found was the upbeat Christmas countryfolk single Summer by Australia's Sunny Cowgirls, which describes barbecues, jet-skiing and "runnin' round with the sprinklers on."

Sally Brown and her co-authors from the universities of Oxford, Newcastle and Reading didn't only study Christmas-themed music; they found 759 weather songs in a karaoke database, from Good Day Sunshine to Blowin' in the Wind. (The majority of the weather songs, in fact, were by The Beatles or Bob Dylan.)

The researchers' aim was to investigate "how society portrays weather in music and the types of weather that inspire musicians." But they also just wanted to have a little fun, the lead author Sally

## Singing through the seasons



For songwriters, weather can act as a muse or as a metaphor for love. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Brown, a research fellow at the University of Southampton, told the Toronto Star.

It all started on a lark, she said. At a conference in 2012, the meteorologists played an ice-breaker game where they listed off weather-related tunes: You Are the Sunshine of My Life, Walking on Sunshine, It's Raining Men — the list went on.

They had so much fun doing it that they continued in their spare time, between studying coastal geomorphology and experimental atmospheric physics, Brown said.

Out of the 190 songs that had

weather as a primary theme, sun and sunshine were the most common references, followed by rain.

The researchers say they may explore the subject further by studying music in other languages or focusing on certain genres.

Whether they do or not, their experiment has already changed the way some of the authors listen to music.

"Last week, I was working away in a hotel and they had Christmas music and I was counting the weather references," Brown said. "It was Frosty the Snowman." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



## STUDY FINDINGS



### Weather holds the key

Very often, the weather is used as a metaphor for love or a relationship, lead author Sally Brown, a research fellow at the University of Southampton noted.

Bus Stop by The Hollies, for example: "All that summer/We enjoyed it/Wind and rain and shine/That umbrella, we employed it/By August, she was mine."

For some songwriters, the

weather seems to have acted as their muse.

George Harrison apparently wrote Here Comes the Sun after leaving a business meeting in April 1969, on the first sunny day of the year after a particularly dreary winter, according to the study. Meteorological records show that that April was the sunniest month on record until 1984. When Harrison sang "It's been a long cold lonely winter," he may

have been speaking literally.

They also found a correlation between certain weather references and the keys that a song is in. Mentioning the sun "significantly increases the probability" that a song is in a major key, while songs in minor or mixed keys are more likely to mention the rain. If a song in their database mentioned a rainbow, it was 100 per cent likely to be in a major key. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# WHERE SANTA LIVES



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JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

# Live-action brings energy

**THE SHOW:** Undateable, season three, episode eight (City/NBC)  
**THE MOMENT:** The Fourth Wall

Permanently single dude Danny (Chris D'Elia) just met Charlotte (Whitney Cummings) at his local watering hole, but already they feel a connection.

"I bet your sex life is like Nic Cage's movie career," she taunts him.

"You'll do anything."

She stretches out her legs. He cracks wise about her having balls. She says one of them has to. "Careful," he says, holding back real laughter. "Don't get us cancelled" — here he looks straight into the camera — "twice."

The studio audience cackles on cue.

This series joins a growing wave of live TV, as networks scramble to give people a reason to watch shows as they air.

The Sound of Music Live! and The Wiz Live! scored big in their broadcasts. Grease Live is set to air January 31.

Tyler Perry recently announced he'll host a live musical about Jesus, The Passion, this coming Palm Sunday.



Undateable now films every episode live and tweeting is encouraged. CONTRIBUTED

Undateable floundered in its first two seasons, but a live broadcast last May perked up ratings. Now every episode airs live, complete with musical guests who perform during breaks, live Tweeting encouraged (the actors' Twitter handles appear on screen) and much smashing of the fourth

wall that usually divides the cast and audience.

In-jokes are big (Cummings and D'Elia costarred in her show, Whitney), as are stunt casting, winking at the audience, exaggerating any mishaps or missed lines, and hamming it up for the cheap seats.

The cast sure seems to have a good time.

But they should redirect some of that energy into the scripts.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

## FILMMAKERS

## Japanese festival offers big money

A Japanese festival focused on the art of the short film is offering a new award of nearly a million dollars to a director from anywhere in the world with a great pitch for a movie.

Organizers say short video is where audiences are going, as entertainment increasingly gets consumed on smartphones. They also believe the format holds potential for novice filmmakers, bringing fresh insight.

The deadline for submitting a 500-word pitch on what's billed as a "thrilling, exciting, moving" storyline is Feb. 29. The pitch must be written in either Japanese or English.

"Movies aren't about length," said Tetsuya Beshho, an actor who founded the festival in 1999, likening the best short films to the minimalist but fine-tuned concentration of haiku poetry.

"There are Hollywood flops with everything thrown in for marketing. You can't decide if it's a comedy, a love story or an action film. People are getting bored with that kind of movie," said Beshho, whose

### 500,000¥

Five finalists will be chosen. Each gets a 500,000 yen (\$4,000) prize. Then one will receive 100 million yen (\$800,000) to make their movie. That winner will get an additional 1 million yen (\$8,000) award.

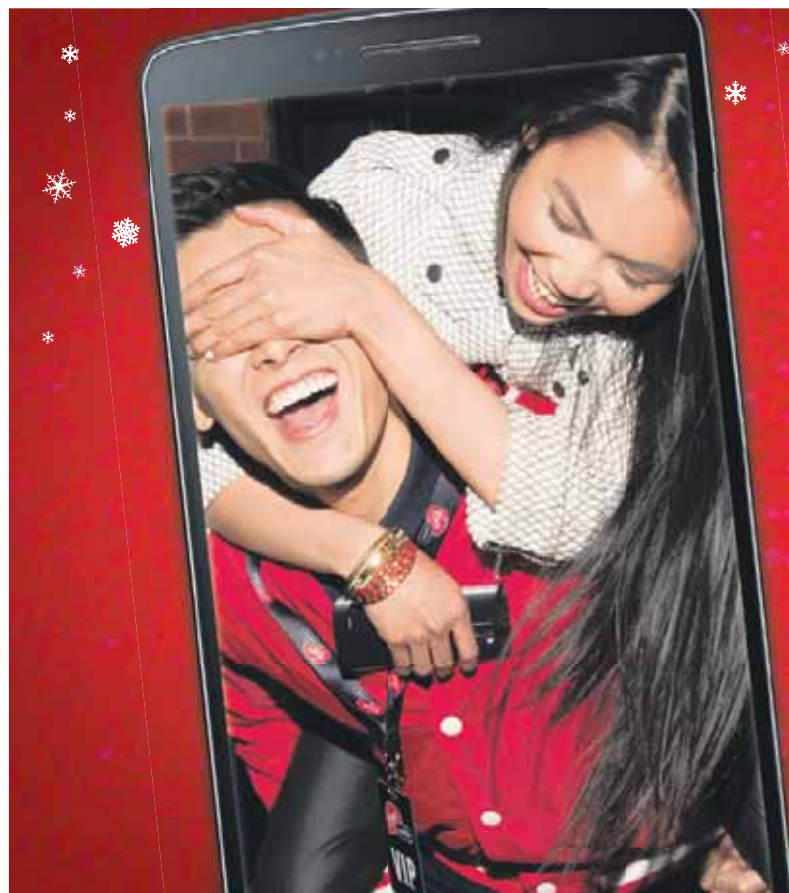
films include Godzilla vs. Mothra and Solar Crisis, with Charlton Heston.

His festival has showcased the best in short films, such as Toyland, which won an Oscar, and the light-hearted comedy I Hate Musicals.

It also honours less conventional work from a new breed of creators, including Indonesian auteur Yosep Anggi Noen, who was also featured at the Rotterdam and Busan international film festivals.

"It can be more free, more independent," Anggi said of the short film format. "Nobody tells me how to make that film."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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# Rewire kids' brains to regulate behaviour

## PARENTING

### Discipline by fear is a short term solution, expert says

Picture your kid misbehaving. Maybe they're jumping on the sofa, or having a meltdown, or throwing toys at their siblings. As a parent — what do you do? Send them to their room, make them skip dinner... or offer them a reward if they cut it out, perhaps?

You might want to rethink your methods, according to a new book from Vancouver-based psychologist Dr. Vanessa Lapointe. In *Discipline Without Damage: How to Get Your Kids to Behave Without Messing Them Up* (out in January), the mother of two puts parenting strategies in perspective — and de-

bunks some popular ways to discipline your kids.

Lapointe talks about why certain forms of discipline can impact kids' development, and what parents should do instead.

**In the book, you talk about common ways parents handle those moments of acting out — things like timeouts, grounding kids, and offering rewards. What's wrong with those long-engrained approaches?**

First of all, we have to land at why those approaches have become so popular. It's because they afford instant gratification. When you give a child a time out, you're going to have an immediate reaction — the child stopping their behaviour. Yes, you've got the behaviour to stop, but you've managed to stop it at a cost — it's out of fear. It's like going to the carnival and you play the whack-a-mole game; you've whacked it down, but it's going to pop up in another

way, like another behaviour or frustration, because the child continues to have this unmet need for the parent to come alongside them. Frustration often morphs into aggression, either outwardly or inwardly directed, which could mean self-loathing or self-harm.

**So what's the better way to discipline kids, then?**

The thing is, children are going to be children, based on how their brains are growing. Behaviours we look at as challenging are just a natural part of being a child. We need to come alongside and connect with them. The key to discipline without damage is to be disciplining through a relational connection with your child that meets them in their natural state.

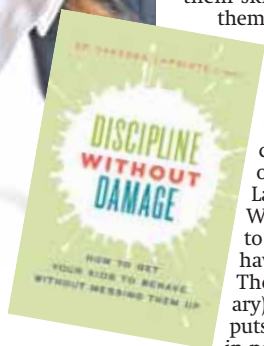
**You give one example of a mom calming down her daughter Sophia by taking her aside and explaining a situation to her calmly. It**

**seems great, but how do parents achieve that in moments of stress and frustration?**

Parents need to be in a regulated state to come alongside their children and be the regulator in that relationship. When you're looking in on a child who's engaged in some kind of challenging behaviour, you might see that behaviour as that of a child who needs to be schooled and put into place. Instead of seeing your child as a brat, see them as someone who is having a hard time while their brain is really fired up. When you see them through those kinds of eyes, it invites a whole new kind of emotion. If you lived in my house, I'm not a rock star, and I'm not doing this perfectly all the time. There are days when I'm a hot mess! But no-one says you need to be perfect — you just need to do this enough times so your child's neural circuitry holds onto enough over time. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Dr. Vanessa Lapointe says that as a psychologist, about 90 per cent of the parents she sees come in because of behavioral challenges in their children. CONTRIBUTED



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The Boston Red Sox will retire Baseball Hall of Famer Wade Boggs' No. 26 during a ceremony at Fenway Park on May 26

# Herdman urges players to learn from the pain

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

### Coach tells his team World Cup heartbreak a growth lesson

John Herdman doesn't want his players to forget their World Cup pain.

The Canadian women's national team was left bitterly disappointed this summer after crashing out of a tournament the hosts felt was there for the taking, losing 2-1 to England in a heartbreaking quarter-final.

Six months later and with preparations well underway for 2016 Olympic qualifying, Canada's head coach hasn't sensed a World Cup hangover, but rather a renewed belief.

"I don't think you move past something like that," said Herdman. "You have to move through those things. You have to reframe. You have to look at the things that worked well for us that we were really happy about. And you have to look at other aspects where we need to grow."

With that in mind, Canada just wrapped up a four-team event over the weekend in Brazil that saw the squad finish second after losing the final 3-1 to the hosts.

Herdman brought a mixture of youth and experience to South America following a training camp in Vancouver, with teenagers Kennedy Faulknor (16), Deanne Rose (16), Gabrielle Carle (17) and Marie Levasseur



John Herdman high-fives fans prior to the start of the FIFA Women's World Cup quarter-final match between England and Canada in June. RICH KAM/GETTY IMAGES

(18) all making their full international debuts.

"What stood out was the performances of the team in some of the games where you really did get to see the quality that we could have moving forward," Herdman said in a telephone interview from Brazil. "The senior players have cultivated a culture where these kids can come in and really play in all phases." Speed and scoring were

**"You have to move through those things. You have to reframe."**

John Herdman

among the areas where Canada was lacking at the World Cup. Herdman is hopeful that

some of the new blood will help.

"I think the team is comfortable that we've got strategy and structure down," he said. "It's now bringing that alive — that winning mindset and just leaving everything out on the pitch every time."

Canadian captain Christine Sinclair was among the veterans who made the trip to Brazil and said it was encouraging to see some of the younger players

fulfil roles with another camp set for next month ahead of CONCACAF Olympic qualifying in February.

"Qualifying is always a stressful time, not going to lie," she said. "It always comes down to one game. You win, you're in. You lose, you're out. Football's a funny game sometimes. I've been on both sides of those games. You can't take any of these teams lightly." THE CANADIAN PRESS

## IN BRIEF

### Thorpe staying with Als after resignation nixed

Noel Thorpe will stay on as defensive co-ordinator and assistant head coach of the Montreal Alouettes.

The CFL club confirmed Monday that Thorpe will be back for the 2016 campaign.

Reports last week said Thorpe, who had two years left on his contract, had resigned and was looking to sign with the Edmonton Eskimos. That prompted league commissioner Jeffrey Orridge to ban coaches moving from one team another without his written approval. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Stampeders re-sign national lineman Turner

The Calgary Stampeders have re-signed national defensive lineman Junior Turner.

Turner, who was set to become a free agent in February, was the Stamps' 2015 nominee for Most Outstanding Canadian.

He started all 18 regular-season games at defensive tackle and recorded 32 tackles — including a team-high five tackles for loss — and added three quarterback sacks. Turner also played both playoff games and totalled four tackles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Beckham gets 1-game ban

The NFL has suspended New York Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. for one game for his conduct in Sunday's loss to Carolina in which he drew three personal foul penalties.

Beckham would miss Sunday night's game at Minnesota if his appeal falls through.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Pens' Sullivan wins first

Evgeni Malkin and Phil Kessel each scored two goals and the Pittsburgh Penguins ended a five-game losing streak with 5-2 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets in Pittsburgh on Monday night.

The Penguins, who played without captain Sidney Crosby (lower-body injury), gave coach Mike Sullivan his first victory following an 0-4 start.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## FIFA

# Blatter banned: 'I will fight until the end'

Banished from soccer's ruling body for eight years for unethical conduct, Sepp Blatter won't give up the presidency of his beloved FIFA without a fight.

"I will fight. I will fight until the end," Blatter said Monday at a news conference that started 90 minutes after he and former protege, vice-president Michel Platini, were each banned by FIFA's ethics

## + ELECTION

In two months 209 FIFA members will elect a new leader.

committee.

It was a stunning removal of world soccer's most powerful leaders over a \$2-million payment by FIFA to Platini, the

president of European soccer's ruling body UEFA. The payment is also the subject of a criminal investigation in Switzerland.

"I'm sad. It can't go on this way. It's not possible," said the 79-year-old Blatter, who has spent more than half his life working for soccer's scandal-hit governing body.

"After 40 years, it can't happen this way. I'm fighting to restore my rights."

Already serving a provisional ban, the elected FIFA president and Platini, his longtime likely successor were kicked out of the sport just two months before 209 member federations elect a new leader.

Their offences were judged to be conflict of interest and disloyalty to FIFA. They avoided life bans because corruption was not proven.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sepp Blatter

PATRICK B. KRAEMER/KEystone VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## RECIPE Tuscan Chicken Skillet Dinner



PHOTO: MAMA VISIONE

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada



• 1 tsp sugar

### Directions

**1.** Pour the oil into a large skillet and warm to medium heat. Brown the chicken. You may have to work in batches. Remove from the pan and set aside. Drain all but about 1 or 2 Tbsp of fat.

**2.** Add the mushrooms, oregano and thyme to the pan and allow the mushrooms to become quite soft and brown. Remove them from the pan and set aside.

**3.** Add the onion and garlic and cook for about 3 minutes until they're soft and fragrant. Add the sugar, sun dried tomatoes, canned tomatoes and beans. Simmer for about 5 minutes, breaking up the tomatoes with the back of a spoon.

**4.** Gently tip in the chicken and mushrooms and simmer for another 10 minutes, until the meat is cooked through.

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With meat, veggies and legumes in a single recipe, you don't need anything else for dinner. And you won't miss the mess of more than one pan to clean!

### Ready in

Prep time: 30 minutes

### Serves 4

### Ingredients

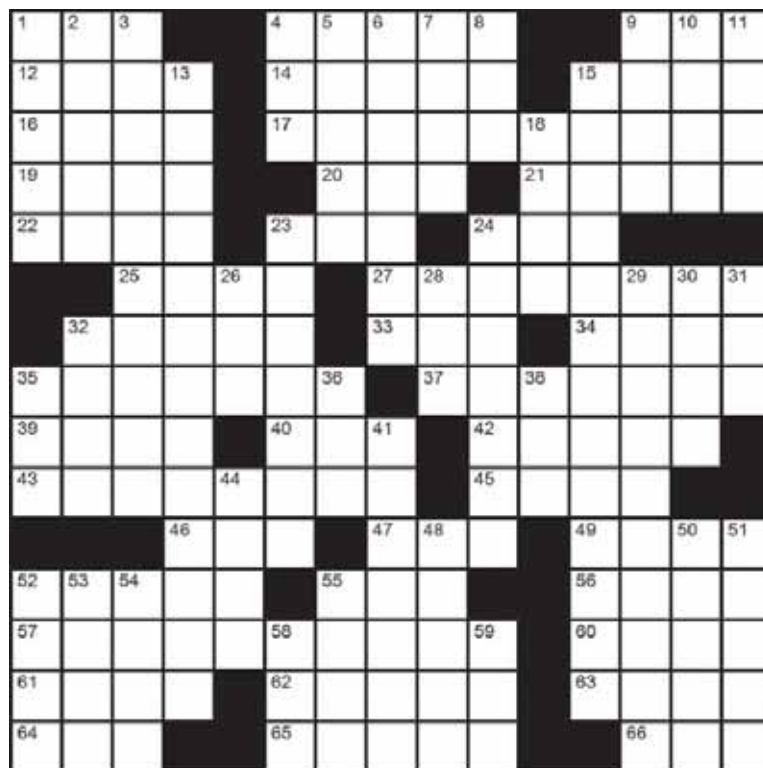
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 lb chicken breasts, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1/4 tsp oregano
- 1/4 tsp thyme
- 1 1/2 cups mushrooms, sliced
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup sun dried tomatoes
- 14 oz can cannellini beans, drained
- 19 oz can tomatoes
- 1/4 tsp chili powder

## CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

### ACROSS

- Puny planes posting
- Bing Crosby's Christmas medley duettist David
- Li'l hairstyles
- Cartography subj.
- 'Pine' is a popular one at Christmas
- Hourly pay
- Tech sch. grad
- Sporty character voiced by Canadian actor Paul Kligman in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer": 2 wds.
- Roughly
- Realty database, commonly
- Beginning
- Genuine
- Comprehend
- Towels holder
- Houston ML-Ber, to fans
- "Up on the \_\_\_": Christmas tune that goes "Down through the chimney with lots of toys..."
- Burglar
- Lieutenant Tasha \_\_\_ ("Star Trek: The Next Generation" role)
- Ploy
- "Gimme Little Sign": 1967 hit for \_\_\_ Wood
- Ritzly spice
- Tennis great Bjorn
- Egg mass
- Clods
- Treats left for Santa
- Lounge around



- Ctrl, Shift, \_\_\_
- Long river in Scotland
- Jeans tops
- "Let \_\_\_ Be Peace on Earth"
- \_\_\_ Mahal
- Stagnate
- "We Three Kings of Orient Are"... "Field

- and fountain, moor and mountain / Following \_\_\_
- Change position
- Seal herds
- Buy
- By any chance
- Photo \_\_\_ (PR events)

- Groups, briefly
- Cousin of -ette

### DOWN

- Spew
- Opera voice
- People like Yukon Cornelius when travelling: 2 wds.
- Grad letters

- \_\_\_, All Ye Faithful"
- Rich
- Bus. name abbreviations
- Ordinal suffix
- Beaver creations
- S-shaped moulding
- Cobblestone

- Holiday things sent/received: 2 wds.
- "It's the Most \_\_\_ of the Year": Classic tune on #48-Down
- Dove murmurs
- "Don't hold back!": 3 wds.
- In a country style
- Soak flax
- '\_' in Ornament
- Bird in "The Twelve Days of Christmas": 2 wds.
- Bears, in Barcelona
- Write
- Deanna \_\_\_ (Counselor on "Star Trek: The Next Generation")
- 'Start With Trust' is this org.'s slogan
- "\_\_\_ so fast!"
- \_\_\_ Fighters (Rock band)
- Mansion settings
- Peter Fonda title role
- Current festive album produced by Bob Rock: '\_\_\_ Arden Christmas'
- North Pole toy-shop workers
- Soothsayers
- 'Winter' as Wnter
- Basketball net
- Halts
- Tea stirrers [abbr.]
- Cape Town's home [acronym]
- Li'l streets

## ★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
You are on your way up in the world. The Sun's move into the career area of your chart means if you have a plan and if you make the effort there is nothing you cannot accomplish.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
The Sun's change of signs endows you with almost limitless confidence. But try not to take life too seriously. Make a point of seeing the funny side of everything that happens.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
The week will bring to light something you have been trying to hide from yourself. If you want to get over it now is the time to face up to your demons. They are not as terrifying as you imagine.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
Get over any embarrassment you might feel at revealing your innermost feelings. Even if you are the kind of Cancerian who keeps your emotions in check you will want to share what is in your heart.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
Anything you begin will have the stamp of success on it, so long as you start slowly and don't take silly risks. You have big ambitions but you still need to take care of your health.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
The Sun moves into the most dynamic area of your chart today, making this one of the best times of the year for getting things done. Have a plan and pace yourself.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
As from today you will feel a lot more positive about what kind of person you are and what kind of things you should be doing in your life. If you feel yourself pulled in a new direction don't let others talk you out of it.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
You'll let others know what you think and feel today. However, that does not mean you should tell them everything about yourself. It could give rivals information to use against you.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
The efforts and sacrifices you've made recently have not been in vain, and your financial situation will improve by the end of the week. Don't rely on promises — get cash in hand.

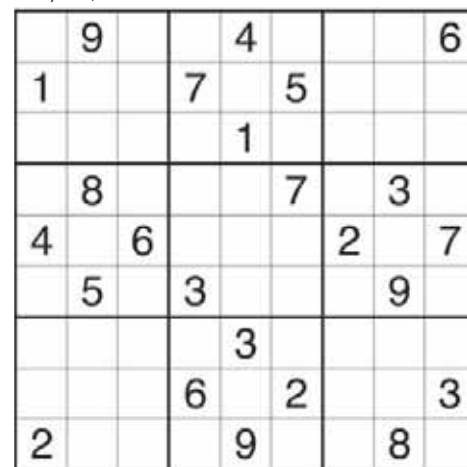
**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
If you focus your energy in a single direction you'll achieve something amazing. There can be no more doubts or wondering if you are making the right moves. Choose a path.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
You're about to get yet another opportunity to overcome a fear and you must take it. Stop worrying about life and start living it and enjoying it. There are so many good things in the world.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
Someone you meet on your travels will become a good friend and also a partner who can assist with the big projects you've got lined up. Your needs and theirs are closely related.

### CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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